Message Text

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FOR R K BANK, USDEL, UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

FOL REPEAT OECD PARIS 10836 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON DTD 13 APR.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 10836

LONDON FOR USDEL TO MSC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO, OECD

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL

POLLUTION

REF: A) STATE 075871, B) OECD PARIS 10483

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, WE BRIEFED HUMPHREY AND LANTZKE (LATTER JUST BACK FROM U.S.) ON U.S. INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 084897

2. HUMPHREY COMMENTED THAT U.S. MEASURES WOULD MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS. WHILE SOME OBJECTIONS MIGHT BE RAISED TO THE U.S. UNILATERAL APPROACH, SUCH A METHOD WAS THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO GET INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS OFF THE GROUND. HUMPHREY THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT U.S. MEASURES APPLY TO ALL VESSELS (INCLUDING U.S.) TO AVOID CHARGES OF DIS-

CRIMINATION OR THAT WE WERE SETTING UP NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. HE THOUGHT THE ISSUE OF IMPROVING CREW STANDARDS WOULD BE THE THORNIEST PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RAISE ISSUES OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IF ONE SOUGHT TO LOOK BEHIND CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT COMMUNICATIONS COULD PRESENT DIFFICULT PROBLEMS ON VESSELS WHOSE CREWS SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

- 3. HUMPHREY SUGGESTED THAT U.S. MIGHT FIND PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON WORLD OIL CARRIER SITUATION (REF B) A USEFUL FORUM FOR FURTHER EXPLAINING U.S. THINKING ON OUR TANKER POLLUTION INITIATIVE. (IN THIS CONNECTION HUMPHREY SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTION FOR AN AGREEMENT ON VARIABLE LOAD LINES MIGHT BE A USEFUL COMPLEMENT TO THE U.S. INITIATIVES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SEGREGATED BALLAST SINCE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH CUT DOWN CARGO CAPACITY OF VESSELS WOULD MITIGATE COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE FOR SHIPS WITH SEGREGATED BALLAST FACILITIES). IN ADDITION HE SUGGESTED U.S. MIGHT WISH OECD SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE PAPER CONTAINING RATIONALE FOR U.S. ACTIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD MAY 16-18.
- 4. IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE WAS GRATEFUL FOR U.S. BRIEFING. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON POSSIBILITY THAT IEA MIGHT PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 084897

INITIATIVE FROM PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSIDERATIONS. THE IDEA HE WISHED TO EXPLORE WAS THAT U.S. INITIATIVE WOULD PRECLUDE FUTURE PROBLEMS FROM DEVELOPING WHICH MIGHT AT LATER DATE INTERFERE WITH OIL TRANSPORT BY SEA. HOWEVER, LANTZKE WAS NOT PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO DO MORE THAN THINK ABOUT MATTER.

5. COMMENT: WE COMMEND TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION HUMPHREY'S SUGGESTIONS ON USE OF HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE AND MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT FOR U.S. INITIATIVES.
TURNER

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